

# El Paso Path Public Input Summary



## OVERVIEW

Public meetings were held on Tuesday, Aug. 20 and Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019 to collect feedback on scheduled El Paso Path expansion and improvements, including expanding the path through Optimist Park, lighting replacement and upgrades to landscaping with concrete improvements.

Eleven attendees signed in at the Aug. 20 meeting and 5 at the Aug. 24 meeting. A total of 24 survey responses were received; 5 at the Aug. 20 meeting, 3 at the Aug. 24 meeting and 16 online.

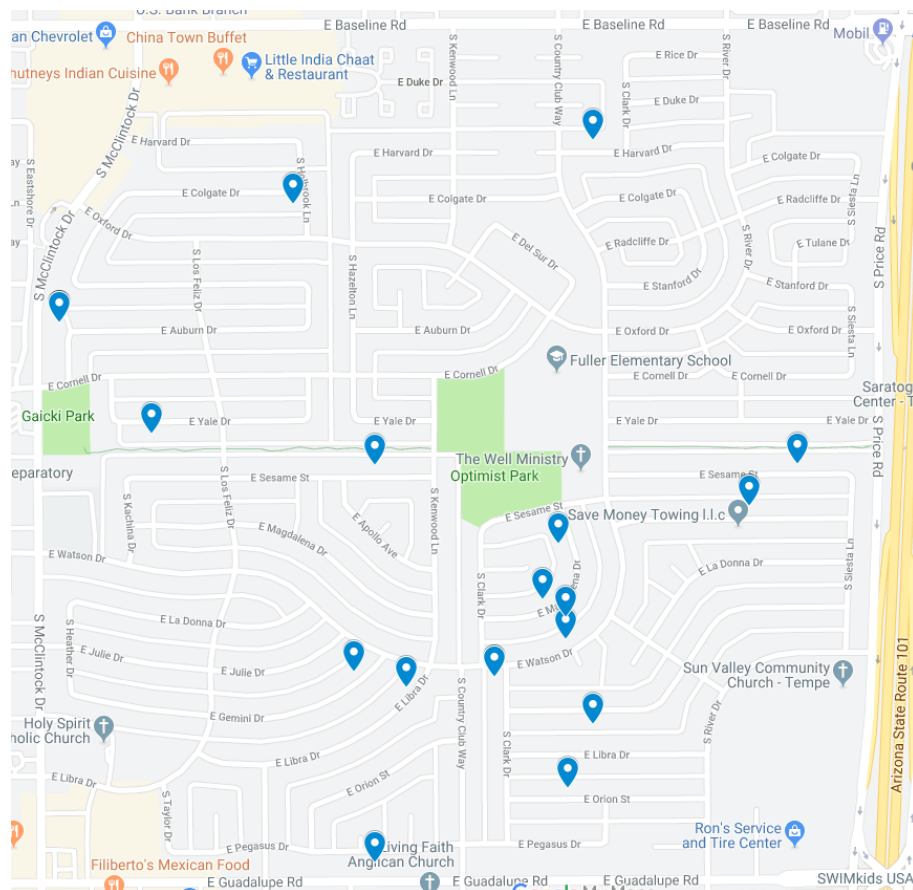
## OUTREACH

Residents in the area of McClintock Drive to Price Road and Baseline Road to Guadalupe Road were invited to participate in the process through direct mail, with additional outreach done through Nextdoor and area neighborhood and homeowners' associations.

Nextdoor Aug. 12 meeting post: 177 impressions

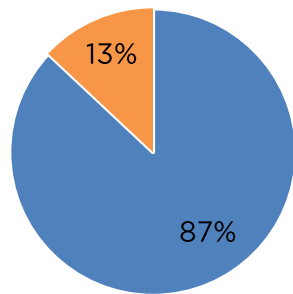
Nextdoor Sept. 1 comment reminder post: 153 impressions

## MAP OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS



## SURVEY RESPONSES

### 1. Do you support the proposed design?



■ Yes (20) ■ No (3)

Total Responses: 23

#### Why or why not?

##### Yes responses:

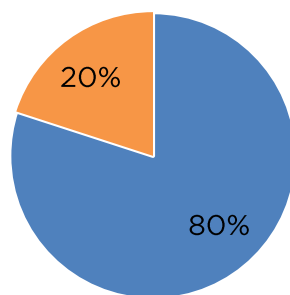
1. ADA compliance, widening the path and more trees for shade cover.
2. I am in favor of any improvements to this path. We live near Optimist Park, and this path doesn't feel safe to me in it's current condition.
3. Perfect path straight across and the school doesn't use that part of the field.
4. I use this path daily so really appreciate the new extension across optimist park, and the added trees. I did comment at one of the meetings would like to add additional comments.
5. Increased shade from additional trees, wider path, path connecting thru Optimist Park.
6. Needs to be done; should also move alignment of fence near Fuller School if needed to align path.
7. Lived here since 1991. Thought the implementation of an urban trail was a great improvement over the wide alley at that time. Since, time has taken its tole and a re-do is necessary. Including a path across the park and school is a great idea.
8. I have always thought it was strange that there was not a path through the park. I enjoy using the path with my children on their bikes. My only wish is that it continued all the way to Kiwanis park somehow.
9. I am excited for the project to begin. Especially the section between Kenwood and Country Club. As a frequent user of the path I am looking forward to the improvements.
10. Continuation of path through the park. More trees. New lighting
11. The wider pathway would be more conducive to walking & biking. I really like the idea of 100 additional trees and the many new varieties of shrubs & ground covers. The proposed lighting will be much less prone to vandalism. Adding the missing link along the back of Fuller School is critical for success.
12. Improved lighting and landscape. Add waste stations for pets.
13. It will finish the existing path.

14. Our neighborhood needs more trees to provide shade that will help to cool the entire area. Trees and bushes offset the expanse of roadways, parking lots and buildings. Every living plant produces more oxygen for us to breathe.
15. Great to see the path connected. Impressed with the wider path. More shrubs & new trees will increase ambiance.
16. I want to be proud of Tempe.
17. Love it. Use it daily. Grading of gravel along sides needs attention. We need a dog park by school. Need as much shade as possible, more on the Price to Country Club section. Need garbage cans and dog bags more frequently along path and on path side of Gaiki Park. Make sure lighting covers whole length of path.
18. I'm very glad that you are remedying the sizeable gap between Country Club and Kenwood, so that there is a continuous, even path for users.

**No responses:**

1. The tall trees that were planted in the 1st phase are not appropriate. They drop needles and are very fragile trees. Wind storms knock off limbs which causes a safety problem and fills pools adjacent to the path with debris difficult to remove. 2 Yrs ago my neighbor filled in his pool with gravel because keeping it clean was too much trouble. I bought my home in 1989 before the path and had no issues with my pool. These trees get very tall and branch out. While they do provide some shade for the path they also cover it with needles and debris and the path is never clean near them. There are better trees to plant if you want to do it right.
2. 1. the bushes, trees, etc. are so close to the sidewalk that they impede walking. They hang over the walkway from the top and sides. 2. when it rains the sidewalk is flooded especially between Price and Country Club way. 3. The path is only partly usable unless a direct path between Country Club and Kenwood is created.
3. Why disrupt the park and put more cement in? People can still walk across the park to continue on the path. Walking on a grassy area in lieu of cement will be better on your joints and feet.

**2. Do you support the proposed types of trees, shrubs and groundcover?**



■ Yes (16) ■ No (4)

Total responses: 20

**If not, what would you add or remove?**

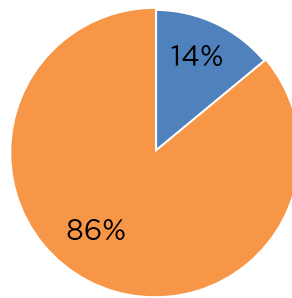
1. Just make sure there is sufficient shade so that residents can still walk in the summer.
  2. I notice that almost all the new trees are added along the north side of the path, but I also notice when I walk early each day, that the early morning shade is often from the trees on the south side of the path. Please check on that and/or consider adding a few extra trees on the south side of the path. Acacia is very messy and our path is not cleared very often. If the path will be cleared more often, then this tree is fine. If not, then please don't use messy trees. It is difficult to walk on for me and my dog. Love Palo Verde, but consider the larger flowers of the "Desert Museum" species. Regarding Chilean Mesquite, here's an article comparing it to the native 'Velvet Mesquite' (<https://www.desertharvesters.org/native-tree-information/choosing-mesquite-trees-for-landscapes-by-greg-corman/>). Would that be a better option? The Hemp Tree and Yellow Oleander are beautiful and would add some color to our desert scape.
  3. I am a big fan of whatever will create a canopy over the path.
  4. Tall messy trees are not the answer. They are a problem and safety hazard. Plant cleaner shade trees, not desert trees.
  5. Refer to my earlier comment. The maintenance of the trees and bushes is a real problem. The sidewalk is only partially usable when you have to duck under low hanging branches, and detour around overgrown bushes that extend across the sidewalk.
  6. No more oleanders, why are removing trees to put in more trees? Do we have money that needs to go to plants and cement in parks or could we use the money to improve our roads?
  7. Mostly support the proposed types. Consider Arizona Mesquite instead of Chilean. It is deeper rooted so it won't blow over and is more resistant to wind breakage. (Also it is patented so is more expensive).
  8. What about pushash (sp) is it not mixing with existing style of tree?
  9. Try to use less messy trees. There's lots of debree along path.
  10. Less prickley varieties/no caesalphina Pulcherimma, no dasylineoen wheeleni, no hospenabe, pereiflora, no aloe vera, no cat's claw
  11. All but oleanders. Please do not include more toxic oleanders to the landscape.
3. Please rank the following elements from 1 to 5 with (1) being your top priority and (5) being your lowest.

Average of the total responses:

1. Wider path
2. Completing the path between Country Club Way and Kenwood Lane
3. More trees
4. ADA compliant ramps
5. Crosswalks

4. Do you have any comments specific to the proposed design from Country Club Way to Kenwood Lane through Fuller Elementary and Optimist Park?
1. It is much needed. The proposed plan looks good to me.
  2. Might as well take it all the way over to the burm at the field in school field.
  3. Very happy to see that it is coming! The gap with no trees is a concern, so if you can add some there, please do.
  4. No
  5. Yes; we should coordinate with SRP and potentially plan for replacement of their line so that the neighborhood doesn't have to go through the process twice. It was brought to the attention of the Project Mgr. at our Parks meeting that the age of the irrigation line along the SRP easement is over 40 years old - if that is the case SRP should be contacted at the highest levels (project manager needs the support of council and Mayor - similar to what we did when we provided bike path around Ken McDonald G.C with SRP) to make sure we work together on this project and make all replacements at the same time. It is the smart thing to do and the fiscally responsible thing to do and will cause less inconvenience. Imagine that we complete the project next year and then on 2021 their line fails - all of that effort or some portion thereof would need to be redone
  6. Yes. The design would be even better if the path across optimist park also went to the playground. This would be beneficial for both ADA and parents with kids in strollers.
  7. I love this idea. It will also make cycling to Fuller a little bit safer in my opinion, especially if there are crosswalks.
  8. For nine months of the year the benefits of the pathway are significantly reduced because of the extremely high traffic (and street parking) around Fuller School.
  9. Looks good
  10. No need for this expense. People can walk through the park and enjoy the grassy areas without all the cement.
  11. Use a variety of trees in this area not just one type so a blight, fungus etc doesn't kill one type. Red Pusch pistachio would be ideal in this area.
  12. I think it is important to make this a contiguous path/walkway from Price Rd. to McClintock. All residents will benefit from its beauty and encourage families to get out and exercise.
  13. This neighborhood needs a dog park. We have not public art. you at least have an artist on design team. Sometimes art doesn't cost anything.
  14. As many trees as we can get.
  15. Please ensure that open community use of Fuller is still accessible during non-school hours after the new path is installed. This is an important health and recreational amenity for our neighborhood. It appears that there is an excessive number of trees w/o the Well Ministry parking.

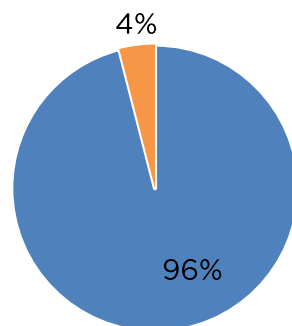
5. Is your home located adjacent to the El Paso Path on Sesame Street or Yale Drive?



■ Yes (3) ■ No (19)

Total Responses: 22

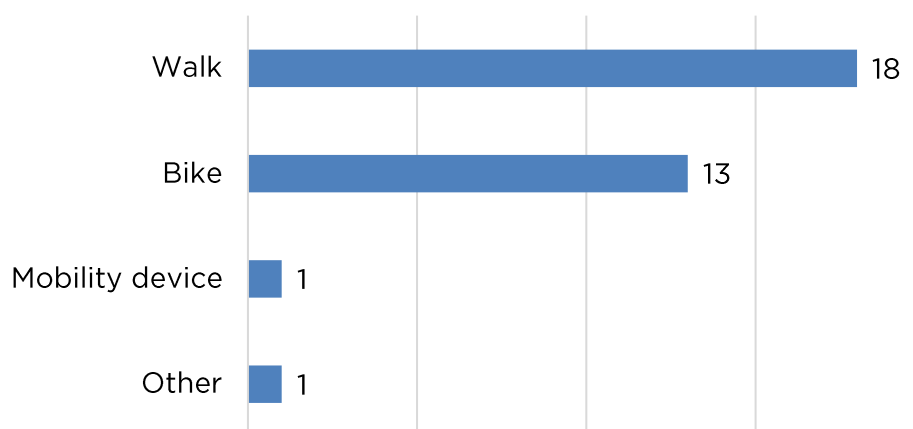
6. Do you use the El Paso Path?



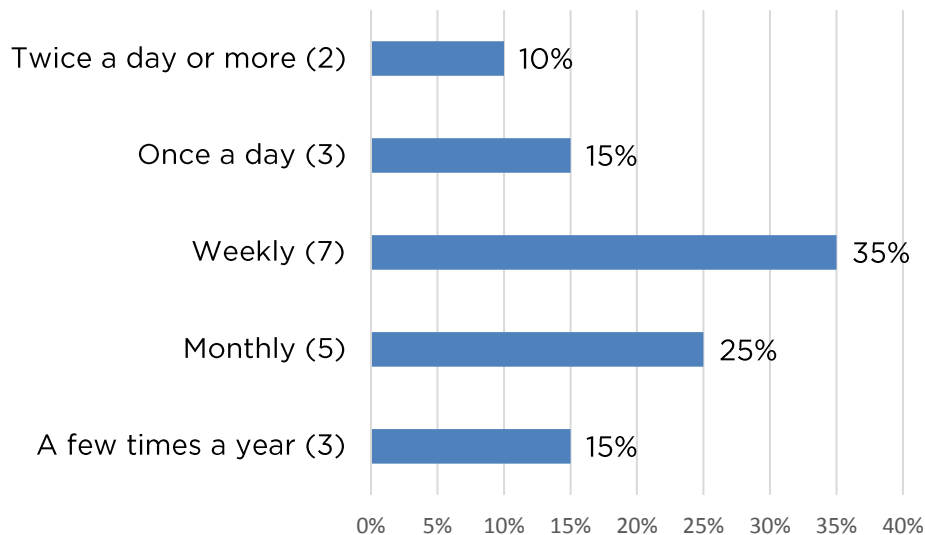
■ Yes (21) ■ No (1)

Total Responses: 22

7. If yes, how do you travel on the El Paso Path? Check all that apply



## 8. If yes, how often you travel on the El Paso Path?



Total responses: 20

## 9. Additional comments:

1. I don't use the path as much as I could because it doesn't feel safe to me. The vandalism (broken lights) and "isolated" feeling of the path are both deterrents. Widening the path, fixing the light situation, and making it feel more open and inviting are all things that would encourage me to use this path more often.
2. Making sure there are sufficient trash cans to minimize garbage on the path.
3. Thanks for maintaining and upgrading the path and park
4. The led lights are important and some of the trees, but why are we removing trees to put in new trees? Why do we need to put a cement path through a beautiful park?
5. Path used frequently in the cooler months. We have been waiting a long time for this project to be completed. Hopefully it will happen early in 2020.
6. Several times a week during cooler weather months.
7. Back when the path was first implemented, my home was on the list of homes with RV access needs, but this was never provided. I do not use that access often but it would like your design to include such provision.
8. We use the path to get to school and for fun. When just taking a bike ride, we use it more during the cooler months. Not so much for recreation right now.
9. Use this opportunity to correct a design error on the 1st phase. Replant shade trees and remove the messy desert trees.
10. I will be extremely happy when all the existing lights are replaced by the type of lights (three) that were installed last year. I use the path daily for exercise and in order to use both ends I have to compete with heavy school traffic or walk through the neighborhood sidewalks. It could be transformed into a very useful walk path.
11. Please complete the rest of the paths all the way to South Park. No Sq Curbs.
12. Keep homeless out of parks and pathway.
13. please return library box! also request another bench!
14. My spouse and I like to walk this route together.

15. Please make sure the lighting is adequate and lights the full extent of the walkways. We also need a dog park in Optimist Park. Many neighbors walk our dogs here (and some let their dogs run loose in the park, which is a concern for those keeping their dogs on leash). A small dog section would be helpful too. Please add more dogie bag poles (midway along path segments). The addition of message kiosks at the crosswalks at Los Feliz, Kenwood and Country Club Way would help keep the neighborhood cleaner (and deter people from posting on phone poles, etc.). THANK YOU!!!! This update is such a great improvement to our neighborhood. I love meeting my neighbors as I walk this path each day, and these improvements will add to my enjoyment of my daily walks and bike rides. Looking forward to fall 2020 with completion of the improvements!